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January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
Fax - 1-202-307-1454

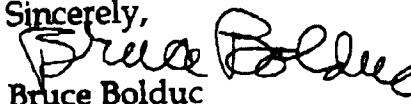
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Litigation is expensive, very expensive. The amount of money spent in both pursuing and defending the issues surrounding the US vs. Microsoft lawsuit is astronomical. Taxpayers will bear the brunt of the cost on this suit, and that will seriously mitigate the consumer benefit of the letters.

According to the terms of the settlement, Microsoft must operate under the supervision of an outside technical committee and disclose parts of windows code to competitors. These points of the settlement force Microsoft to open its business dealings and research to third parties. These two points in the settlement alone are enough punitive action to compensate for any unethical practices Microsoft may be guilty of. Yet, the settlement goes much deeper, proof that this suit has been in court for too long.

The terms of the settlement are more than fair to the plaintiffs in the case and are the result of extended litigation. The Department of Justice must see that the proposed settlement is not derailed; too much time and money have been spent in arriving at this point.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Bolduc